

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07810 01 OF 02 130001Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4576
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL GENOA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 7810

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EFIN, IT
SUBJECT: NATIONAL LABOR ASSEMBLY MAY 9-10

REF: ROME 7192; 5912; 348

1. SUMMARY. WELL-ORCHESTRATED BUT UNENTHUSIASTIC AND
SPARELY-ATTENDED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TRADE UNION
OFFICIALS AND FACTORY DELEGATES (OF WHOM THERE WERE FEW)
PROJECTED A FACADE OF LABOR UNITY FOR THE RECORD; ADOPTED
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PAGE 02 ROME 07810 01 OF 02 130001Z

THE USUAL LONG SHOPPING LIST OF DEMANDS AND PROPOSALS
FOR THE PARTIES, GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS; AND ENDORSED
"INSTITUTIONALIZATION" OF SUCH ASSEMBLIES AT LOCAL,
REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL. CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU)
FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH PARTY REPRESENTA-
TIVES AT THE PARLIAMENT MAY 12 TO PRESENT THE ASSEMBLY'S
"PLATFORM" AND URGE THAT IT BE SUED BY THE PARTIES IN

DEVELOPING A "PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD" FOR THE GOVERNMENT
TO FOLLOW. NEGOTIATIONS AT FIAT RESUME MARCH 13 WITH PARTICIPTION
OF A CCU NATIONAL SECRETARY. END SUMMARY

2. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AND
FACTORY DELEGATES HELD AT RIMINI MAY 9 AND 10 ENDORSED
THE SECRETARIAT REPORT PRESENTED BY CGIL SECRETARY
GARAVINI NEARLY UNANIMOUSLY AND SUCCEEDED IN CONVEYING
AN IMPRESSION OF HARMONY BETWEEN LABOR'S LEADERSHIP AND
RANK-AND-FILE. ATTENDANCE WAS MANIPULATED SO THAT
NEARLY ALL THOSE ATTENDING WERE UNION OFFICIALS RESPONSIVE
TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS THERE
WERE FEW DELEGATES REPRESENTING FACTORY OR COMPANY COUNCILS.
ATTENDANCE WAS REPORTEDLY SPARSE AND UNENTHUSIASTIC. ONE
PARTICIPANT SAID THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 600 INSTEAD OF
THE 2,000 ADVERTISED. CONTRIBUTING FACTORS WERE: 1)
FATIGUE AT THE CONSTANT SERIES OF MEETINGS AND ASSEMBLIES
OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS OR SO; 2) INVOLVEMENT IN PRE-
LIMINARY MANEUVERINGS AND CONGRESSES PRECEDING THE JUNE
CONGRESSES OF CGIL, CISL AND UIL; AND 3) DELIBERATE
ABSTENTION BY OR EXCLUSION OF MANY OF THOSE WHOSE
DISSENT AND REPUDIATION OF NATIONAL CCU LEADERSHIP
AND OF THE PCI WERE EXPRESSED AT THE MUCH BETTER
ATTENDED AND MORE VIGOROUS RUMP CONFERENCE HELD AT
MILAN'S LYRIC THEATER APRIL 6 (REF B).

3. INDEED, THE RIMINI ASSEMBLY WAS A RESPNSE TO
THE LYRIC CONFERENCE, IN THAT IT GAVE OR APPEARED
TO GIVE, AN OUTLET TO EXPRESSION OF RANK-AND-FILE
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PAGE 03 ROME 07810 01 OF 02 130001Z

SENTIMENT, RESTORING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LEADERS AND
RANK-AND-FILE AND DEMONSTRATING THAT UNION COHESION
AND DISCIPLINE HAD NOT BEEN SHAKEN B THE LYRIC
PHENOMENON. THE RIMINI ASSEMBLY RESOLVED TO
INSTITUTIONALIZE ASSEMBLIES OF UNION OFFICIALS AND
FACTORY DELEGATES AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL AS WELL AS
NATIONAL LEVELS, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO AVOID NEW
"LYRICS". ATTEMPTS TO AMEND THE ORDER OF THE DAY TO
EXPRESS APPROVAL OF THE "LYRIC" WERE VOTED DOWN.
RADICAL FIM-CISL METALWORKER UNION SECGEN BENTIVOGLI,
WHO IN HIS SPEECH AT RIMINI JUSTIFIED THE LYRIC DISSENT AND
CRITICIZED "SECRARIANISM", DREW AN ACID REJOINDER
FROM PCI DAILY L'UNITA, WHICH ASSERTED THE RIGHT
OF THE CCU LEADERS AND PCI TO DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM
INSULTS AND ADVENTRUISM.

4. THE PLATFORM PROPOSED IN GARAVINI'S REPORT AND ADOPTED
BY THE ASSEMBLY REPEATED THE POINTS IN UIL SECRETARY
RAVENNA'S REPORT ACCEPTED BY THE CCU EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE APRIL 29 (REFA, PGH. 2) AND ALSO CALLED

FOR PUSHING FORWARD WITH COMPANY LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS,
EXTABLISHING DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS
AND INCORPORATING MONTEDISON IN THE STATE ENTERPRISE
COORDINATION AND PLANNING SYSTEM. IT CAREFULLY AVOIDED
TAKING A POSTION ON THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
THE PARTIES, ALTHOUGH CGIL SOCIALIST DIDO AND UIL
REPUBLICAN ROSSI SPOKE OUT DURING THE ASSEMBLY URGING
A NEW, MAJORITY GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNIST AND CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC CURRENTS PREVAILED AND AVOIDED ANY INITIATIVE
WHICH COULD COMPLICATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES.
A CCU DELEGATION LED BY LAMA, MACARIO AND BENVENUTO
WAS TO MEET WITH A COLLEGIAL DELEGATION OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL"
PARTIES AT PARLIAMENT MARCH 12 TO PRESENT THE PLATFORM
AND URGE THAT IT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN REACHING A
"PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD" BETWEEN THE PARTIES FOR THE GOVERN-
MENT TO FOLLOW. HOWEVER, IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE
CCU DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME A PARTY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS
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PAGE 04 ROME 07810 01 OF 02 130001Z

OR OTHERWISE COMPLICATE THE SITUATION.

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PAGE 01 ROME 07810 02 OF 02 130007Z
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R 121715Z MAY 77
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LIMITED OFFICIAL SUE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 7810

5. DURING THE ASSEMBLY, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH FIAT (BY TELEPHONE) TO REOPEN STALLED COMPANY-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS STARTING MAY 13, WITH A CCU SECRETARY (COMMUNIST RINALDO SCHEDA) PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS ALONG WITH THE COMAPNY-LEVEL UNION LEADERS.

6. DURING THE ASSEMBLY, CCU RELEASED STATISTICS SHOWING THE IMPRESSIVE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FACTORY AND COMPANY COUNCILS, THE NEW, GRASS-ROOTS-CONTROLLED BASIC REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURE COMBINING ALL UNION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ROME 07810 02 OF 02 130007Z

REPRESENTATION, WHICH HAS MUSHROOMED SINCE 1969 IN NORTH ITALY, AND WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE REFLECTED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY ASSEMBLIES LIKE THAT AT RIMINI. IN JANUARY 1977, THERE WERE OVER 32,000 COUNCILS WITH OVER 200,000 DELEGATES ELECTED BY AND REPRESENTING OVER 5 MILLION WORKERS; FIGURES FOR 1972 WERE, RESPECTIVELY, UNDER 10,000, UNDER 100,000 AND OVER 2.5 MILLION. LOCAL ZONE COUNCILS SHOWED MUCH SLOWER GROWTH (FROM 165 IN 1972 TO 348 IN 1977) AND, REPORTEDLY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF BOTH LEVELS OF COUNCILS ARE IN THE NORTH.

7. COMMENT. THE CCU LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNISTS, DID THE USUAL EFFECTIVE JOB OF MUSTERING A DISCIPLINED SHOW OF UNION UNITY, BUT THE RIMINI ASSEMBLY WAS EVIDENTLY A SAD AND DISPIRITED AFFAIR. THE COMMUNISTS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DID A GOOD JOB OF AVOIDING ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT UPSET THE DELICATE PARTY NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY MEANWHILE, UNION POLITICANS ARE ABSORBED IN PRE-CONGRESS MANEUVERING IN THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS.
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